



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**From:** Paul Backs, Board Chair, Grow Leavenworth County Development Corporation

**Date:** December 8, 2016

**Email:** [pbacks@kc.rr.com](mailto:pbacks@kc.rr.com)

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, KS:

In October a local Leavenworth, Kansas Board voted to expand its scope and area of operation to Leavenworth County and change its name from The First City Development Corporation to Grow Leavenworth County (GLC). This expanded area includes the entire Leavenworth County and the following cities: Basehor, Easton, Lansing, Leavenworth, Linwood, and Tonganoxie.

In 2011, the City of Leavenworth joined with the NetWork Kansas Entrepreneurship Community initiative. The result of this initiative was the First City Development Corporation (FCDC) and Board. The Board was comprised of community members and the City of Leavenworth handled administrative duties by. The program allows the Board to sell Kansas Entrepreneurship Tax Credits to pay for interest-free loans to local businesses up to \$45,000. From 2011-2016, FCDC provided \$366,000 in interest-free loans to Leavenworth businesses. In 2015 and 2016, the Board also provided local businesses with tuition expenses to 'Destination Boot Camp' with retail expert Jon Schallert.

The size of the GLC Board has expanded from 9 to 13 members to effectively represent the entire county. The GLC Board Chairman is Mr. Paul Backs, a Leavenworth resident. Mr. Taylour Tedder, Leavenworth Assistant City Manager remains the City of Leavenworth staff support. Requests for information and loans from outside the Leavenworth city limits are handled by Ms. Stefanie Leif, Community & Economic Development Director for the City of Lansing.

The purpose of the GLC is to stimulate economic growth and create jobs throughout Leavenworth County. To accomplish this, GLC fosters entrepreneurship, provides training and educational support to local business people and academia, and awards interest-free loans to qualified small businesses in the GLC area of operations.

Leavenworth County is one of 44 Entrepreneurship or E-Communities within Kansas.

NetWork Kansas is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kansas that connects aspiring, emerging, and established businesses to a wide network of business-building resource organizations across the state.

NetWork Kansas works with communities through its E-Community Partnership to create local, sustainable funding programs as well as creating a virtual network of expertise and educational resources for entrepreneurs at the local level. More information about NetWork Kansas is available online at [www.networkkansas.com](http://www.networkkansas.com). Please contact Mr. Tylour Tedder for more information on a no-interest business loan if you are located within the city of Leavenworth, or regarding available board positions at 913-680-2602 or [ttedder@firstcity.org](mailto:ttedder@firstcity.org); or, contact Ms. Stefanie Leif for loan interest or Board information within all other cities and the unincorporated county at 913-727-5488 or [sleif@lansing.ks.us](mailto:sleif@lansing.ks.us).

-end-